

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 00893 112338Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 618

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T GENEVA 0893

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: SOVIET COMMENT ON LEADERSHIP MATTERS

REF: STATE 30330

1. KOVALEV'S REFERENCE TO POSSIBILITY OF USSR BEING REPRESENTED AT STAGE III BY SOVIET "CHIEF OF STATE" WAS MADE IN RUSSIAN DURING TABLE CONVERSATION AT US-SOVIET DELEGATION LUNCH. REMARK WAS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY SOVIET INTERPRETER. PRESENT AT TABLE WERE THREE SOVIET OFFICIALS (AMB. MENDELEVICH, KONDRASHEV, AND PETROVSKY) WHO SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY AND NORMALLY CORRECT EVEN MINOR TRANSLATION ERRORS MADE BY INTERPRETER. ALSO PRESENT WAS AMB. DUBININ, WHO PREPARED HAS GOOD LINKS WITH SOVIET LEADERSHIP. NO ONE REPEAT NO ONE CORRECTED INTERPRETER'S USE OF THE WORDS "CHIEF OF STATE", ALTHOUGH ALL WERE LISTENING ATTENTIVELY.

2. COMMENT BY SOLDELOFF PETROVSKY THAT SOVIET INTEREST IN CONFERENCE DID NOT RESULT FROM ONE MAN WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO OUR SPECIFIC QUESTION ON RUMORS OF BREZHNEV'S ILL HEALTH. WHILE PETROVSKY IS ONLY A MIDDLE-LEVEL MEMBER OF SOVIET DELEGATION, HE IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO KOVALEV, WHO HAS USED HIM PREVIOUSLY TO CONVEY SPECIFIC MESSAGES TO USDEL. ON THIS OCCAS-

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00893 112338Z

SION PETROVSKY OPENED DISCUSSION BY STATING HE HAD

BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REASSURE USDEL ON SOVIET ATTITUDE
TOWARD CSCE IN AFTERMATH OF RENUNCIATION OF US-SOVIET
TRADE AGREEMENT. PETROVSKY IS NORMALLY RATHER GUARDED
IN HIS COMMENTS ON SOVIET LEADERS.

3. WE HAVE NO OTHER ELEMENTS AT THE PRESENT TIME TO
AID IN EVALUATION OF THESE REMARKS, BUT WILL REMAIN
ALERT FOR ANY FURTHER INDICATIONS WE MAY RECEIVE. DALE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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